

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, September 12, 2003*

## PSA 709 IMPROVES NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY—AND IMAGE—BY ADDRESSING NUISANCE PROPERTY

For several months, an apartment building located at 954 Southern Avenue, SE, had been an eyesore in PSA 709. Neighbors complained not only about trash and feces, but also drug dealing, squatters and prostitution in and around the property. And the fact that Southern Avenue is one the “gateways” into DC, neighbors felt that the property set a poor image for the entire community. So PSA 709’s problem-solving team decided to focus on closing the Southern Avenue apartment building. PSA 709 officers and inspectors with the Department of Public Works conducted a walk-through, took photos and determined the extent of work needed. During the walk-through, the group made a startling discovery: an 82-year-old resident who continued to live in the building even though water had been shut off. Before they could close the building, the group had to ensure the elderly gentleman’s well-being. The next day, the group brought other DC government agencies into the process, including the Fire Marshal, the Emergency Management Agency, the DC Housing Authority, and the Adult Protection Agency. The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs provided documentation on violations and notices previously sent to building owners. This paperwork gave the okay for the building to be condemned. Finding new housing for the senior citizen became a priority. Working with the DC Office on Aging and the DC Housing Authority, the team was able to relocate the within a day, and the building was barricaded immediately. Now, the team is working with the community to try and find a long-term use for the building.

① Read the complete story at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/7th/ss\\_psa709.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/7th/ss_psa709.shtm)

① DC has a program, called Operation Crackdown, that helps communities deal with nuisance properties. Learn more at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/crackdown.shtm>

## PSA 310 MINI STATION, COMMUNITY PICNIC FORGE NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN LOGAN CIRCLE

For the past few years, the MPDC has used “Open-Air MiniStations” to enhance police presence in neighborhoods and to foster communication between police and residents. When it was PSA 310’s turn to have a MiniStation, Lt. Bart Dykes decided to set up in Logan Circle, at 13th & P Streets, NW. Residents had told Lt. Dykes, newly assigned to the PSA, that they were often afraid to walk in the circle because the area appeared to be unsafe. A review of crime data and discussions with PSA officers confirmed residents’ concerns. Lt. Dykes placed two officers at the MiniStation to provide information and get community feedback. The first day the MiniStation was established, residents—many of whom were unfamiliar with the MiniStation—stopped by to show their support and thank the officers in for helping make the park a safer place. PSA 310 was experiencing a rash of thefts from autos, occurring mainly in the evenings through the early morning hours. So a main focus of the MiniStation was to provide residents with literature on ways to avoid being a victim and to remind them about calling police when they view suspicious activity. Examining statistics before and after the MiniStation, Lt. Dykes noted a decrease in thefts from auto for the short term. That same week, residents in Logan Circle had their annual association picnic, as a further opportunity to get to know one another. Both PSA 310 and PSA 313 were part of the event—PSA 313 Lt. Michael Smith served as grillmaster—and officers used the food and fun as a way to further their community policing partnerships.

① Read the complete story at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/3rd/ss\\_310\\_0308.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/3rd/ss_310_0308.shtm)

① Learn more about the MPDC’s Open-Air MiniStations at:

## WHAT'S THE 4-1-1? PSA 411 SHARES INFO LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Sharing public safety information in an easy, timely and ongoing manner is essential to successful community policing. Many communities, including PSA 411 in Northwest, are turning to technology to help them meet this goal. Since the launch of its new online e-group, residents of PSA 411 have been communicating with their local officers like never before. Similar to the growing number of PSAs that are using technology to foster communication, PSA 411 residents have become actively involved in posting their concerns and announcements through a PSA ListServ that forwards messages to every member of the group. In less than a month, 43 members have joined the e-group, which includes police officers, residents, business owners, students, elected officials and other stakeholders. Messages have ranged from requesting that police officers issue parking tickets so that abandoned autos can be towed from private property, to announcing the outcome of an important community meeting. Critical to the success of this site—and others like it is around the District—is professionalism. Community members maintain the integrity of the site by keeping posted items strictly professional. “The key is building up the information that will benefit the users. When used effectively, officials will be able to respond to the concerns posted by the residents,” says Yvonne Smith, Community Outreach Coordinator. For residents without computer access, key topics are printed and distributed at the monthly PSA meetings.

- ① Read the complete story at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/4th/ss\\_411\\_0308\\_listserv.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/4th/ss_411_0308_listserv.shtm)
- ① Visit the PSA 411 ListServ by going to:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MPD-Community-411>

## WHEN POLICE AND COMMUNITIES WORK TOGETHER, NEIGHBORHOODS ARE MADE SAFER

As the MPDC continues to refine its tactics and programs to enhance public safety, one fact remains: neighborhoods are made safer when police, residents and other stakeholders work together. By sharing information, forming partnerships, developing problem-solving strategies, and implementing those strategies in tandem, police and communities throughout DC have demonstrated that partnerships are one of the most powerful weapons in our crime-fighting arsenal. The MPDC's “Policing for Prevention” strategy relies on police-community partnerships, and the strategy provides numerous opportunities for residents and others to get actively involved. This issue of “What’s New in the MPDC” highlights some recent examples of how community policing partnerships are making a difference in DC neighborhoods.

- ① For details on “Policing for Prevention” and how citizens can help to make it work, click on:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/pfp.shtm>

## NEWS & NOTES

**Overnight Photo Radar Hours.** DC motorists are reminded that the MPDC is deploying photo radar speeding reduction cameras during the overnight hours. Beginning this month, this shift has been expanded to include a full, eight-hour deployment from 10 pm to 6 am, six nights a week. Details on photo radar at [mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm).

**Emergency Management Accreditation.** As DC observed the second anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks this past week, it was announced that the District's emergency management program had received full accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program—one of only two jurisdictions to reach that milestone. Accreditation means that DC's emergency plans and resources meet high national standards. Details at [dcema.dc.gov/news\\_room/2003/September/09\\_10\\_03.shtm](http://dcema.dc.gov/news_room/2003/September/09_10_03.shtm).

**Homicide Suspect Arrested.** One of two suspects wanted in connection with a recent gang-related homicide in Northwest DC was arrested this past week. Details at [www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=1786](http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=1786).

**Latino Cultural Fair and Town Hall Meeting.** Mayor Williams and the DC Office on Latino Affairs are hosting this event on Thursday, September 18, from 5-6:30 pm, at Cardozo High School, 1300 Clifton Street, NW. The MPDC's Latino Liaison Unit will participate as well. Details at [ola.dc.gov/news\\_room/2003/august/08\\_19\\_03.shtm](http://ola.dc.gov/news_room/2003/august/08_19_03.shtm).

### DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 9/12/03)

- 2003: 177
- 2002: 168
- % Change: +5.3%

Arrests (week ending 9/6/03)

- Total: 861
- Drugs: 143
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 13
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 20

Firearm Recoveries (as of 9/9/03)

- Total: 1,363
- September: 52

Traffic Fatalities (as of 9/12/03)

- 2003: 47
- 2002: 40
- % Change: +17.5%

**Information, ideas, or comments about this service?** Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**